

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

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R 291516Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5733

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1408

GENEVA FRO MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, UR, XF

SUBJ: MORE ON FAHMY VISIT

REF: MOSCOW 1236

1. SUMMARY. FURTHER FALLOUT FROM FAHMY VISIT
INDICATED DEGREE OF EGYPTIAN ANNOYANCE OVER SOVIET
CONCERN ABOUT MINOR SOVIET ROLE IN DISENGAGEMENT
TALKS AND OVER OTHER ASPECTS OF SOVIET PUBLIC STANCE
ON ME DEVELOPMENTS. SOVIETS, FOR THEIR PART, ARE
AVOIDING HINT OF ANY SERIOUS DIFFERENCES WITH
EGYPTIANS, AND ARE PLAYING VISIT IN LOW KEY AS SUCCESS
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IN FURTHERING SOVIET-EGYPTAIN COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. ALONG LINES OF EGYPTAIN AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS TO CHARGE JANUARY 28 (SEPTTEL), USUALLY WELL-INFORMED EGYPTIAN EMBOFF IN TALK WITH UK COUNTERPART MADE POINT OF DENYING THAT SOVIETS HAD REASON TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR POSITION ON THE SIDELINES DURING RECENT DISENGAGEMENT TALKS. HOWEVER, AS EVIDENCE OF SOVIET CONCERN HE POINTED TO FACT THAT SOVIETS HAD PROVIDED LANGUAGE FOR THAT PART OF SOVIET-EGYPTAIN COMMUNIQUE STRESSING JOINT SOVIET-EGYPTIAN COORDINATION AT MEPC. HE SAID THAT ONLY SUBSTANTIAL EGYPTAIN INPUT WAS LANGUAGE DEALING WITH SIGNIFICANCE OF DISENGAGEMENT, WHICH SOVIET DRAFT HAD TOTALLY OMITTED.

3. SAME EGYPTAIN ALSO SAID FAHMY HAD RAISED WITH SOVIETS EGYPTIAN ANNOYANCE AT PROPAGANDA LINE OF SOME ARAB COMMUNIST MEDIA WHICH HAD CRITICIZED EGYPTAIN HANDLING OF DISENGAGEMENT. ANOTHER EGYPTIAN EMBOFF SAID THAT FAHMY ALSO WAS ANNOYED BY SOVIET EMPHASIS ON SUCCESSES OF SOVIET ARMS IN RECENT ME WAR AND RELATIVE LACK OF ATTENTION DEVOTED IN MEDIA TO PERFORMANCE OF EGYPTAIN AND SYRIAN SOLDIERS.

4. ON SOVIET SIDE, MFA DEPUTY CHIEF NEAR EAST COUNTRIES DIVISION PYRLIN IN DISCUSSING FAHMY VISIT WITH EMBOFF JANUARY 28 (OTHER SUBJECT SEPTTEL) PLAYED VISIT ESSENTIALLY AS A PROTOCOL AFFAIR (TO EMPHASIZE THE POINT HE NOTED FAHMY HAD BROUGHT HIS WIFE). ACCORDING TO PYRLIN, FAHMY'S TWO SESSIONS WITH GROMYKO AND HIS MEETING WITH BREZHNEV AND PODGORNYY HAD PRODUCED GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT GENEVA CONFERENCE SHOULD MOVE SOON TO DISCUSSION OF BASIC ISSUES. IN RESPONSE TO OBSERVATION THAT COMMUNIQUE APPEARED TO EMPHASIZE COMMITMENT TO GREATER SOVIET-EGYPTIAN COORDINATION AT GENEVA, PYRLIN CONCEDED SOVIETS HAD HAD SOME PROBLEMS OF COORDINATION WITH EGYPT DURING DISENGAGEMENT TALKS, BUT INDICATED THAT TWO SIDES WOULD WORK CLOSELY AT GENEVA.

5. DURING JANUARY 29 CALL BY CHARGE ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, CONFIDENTIAL

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MFA USA DIVISION CHIEF KORNIYENKO (WHO PARTICIPATED IN SOME OF TALKS WITH FAHMY) PASSED VISIT OFF AS A SUCCESS, THOUGH WITHOUT MUCH ENTHUSIASM. KORNIYENKO SAID PURPOSES WERE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS AND DISCUSSION OF NEXT STEPS. HE REITERATED STANDARD SOVIET LINE THAT GENEVA CONFERENCE SHOULD BE MORE ACTIVE AND SHOULD MOVE QUICKLY TO KEY SETTLEMENT QUESTIONS WITHOUT WAITING FOR COMPLETION OF DISENGAGEMENT

MENT. ASKED WHAT THE KEY QUESTIONS WERE, HE SAID
COMPLETE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND SECURITY FOR ALL
COUNTRIES INVOLVED.

6. COMMENT. WHILE EGYPTIANS ARE NOT SAYING SO
DIRECTLY, WE DOUBT THAT THEY HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY
SOVIET SENSITIVITY OVER BEING SIDELINED, OR BY
APPARENTLY HEAVY-HANDED SOVIET PUSH FOR MORE INVOLVE-
MENT IN EGYPTAIN PLANNING ON ME NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS
WORTH NOTING THAT EGYPTAIN AMBASSADOR IN CONVERSATION
WITH CHARGE (SEPTTEL), EGYPTIAN POL COUNS IN CONVERSA-
TION WITH US, AND EGYPTAIN EMBOFF (REFTEL) GAVE
EXPLICIT OR IMPLICIT HIGH MARKS TO SECRETARY'S PERFOR-
MANCE AND EXPRESSED NO RESERVATION ABOUT FURTHER US
INVOLVMENT IN ME NEGOTIATIONS.DUBS

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